



Horry-Georgetown  
Technical College

**COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE**

DHG 230  
Public Health Dentistry

Effective Term  
Fall 2026

## Part I: Course Information

Effective Term: Fall 2026

COURSE PREFIX: DHG 230

COURSE TITLE: Public Health Dentistry

CONTACT HOURS: 5

CREDIT HOURS: 3

### **RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:**

DHG 230 introduces the Dental Hygiene student to the realm of public health and how the profession of dentistry and more specifically dental hygiene can provide care to larger populations. This course will provide the student with the basic background knowledge to create, present and evaluate dental health programs to the public; understand the process of research and how to evaluate various dental products for recommendation to the public; and how dental care is positioned within government healthcare. This course will also prepare the student for additional career options available to a professional dental hygienist.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a study of oral health and the prevention of oral disease in a community. Emphasis is on assessment of community groups and dental health needs, planning, implementation, and evaluation of community programs.

### **PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

#### **PRE-REQUISITES:**

DHG 175 Clinical Dental Hygiene II

DHG 239 Dental Assisting for Dental Hygienists

MAT 101 Introductory Algebra

PSY 201 General Psychology

#### **CO-REQUISITES:**

DHG 140 General & Oral Pathology

DHG 143 Pharmacology

DHG 241 Integrated Dental Hygiene I

DHG 255 Clinical Dental Hygiene III

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Please visit the [BOOKSTORE](#) online site for most current textbook information.

Enter the semester, course prefix, number and section when prompted and you will

be linked to the correct textbook.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), HGTC's learning management system (LMS) used for course materials.
- Access to myHGTC portal for student self-services.
- College email access – this is the college's primary official form of communication.

**ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION:**

The Add/Drop Period is the first 7 days of the semester for **full term** classes. Add/Drop periods are shorter for accelerated format classes. Please refer to the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines for add/drop. You must attend at least one meeting of all your classes during that period. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course(s) and your Financial Aid will be reduced accordingly

**STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

Each semester, students are provided with an opportunity to participate in course evaluation surveys. These evaluations offer crucial feedback to instructors and the College, leading to enhancement of educational quality. By completing these surveys, you play a key role in the ongoing improvement of teaching methods and course content, ensuring future students enjoy a better learning experience. Students are encouraged to complete these surveys as your active participation in this process reflects your dedication to your education and drives positive change.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

As a matter of courtesy to other students and your professor, please turn off cell phones and other communication/entertainment devices before class begins. If you are monitoring an emergency, please notify your professor prior to class and switch cell phone ringers to vibrate.

To ensure a positive College experience, guidelines exist in numerous areas of campus life. The Student Code for The South Carolina Technical College System "The Student Code" (3-2-106.1) applies to all HGTC students. The Student Code sets forth rights and responsibilities of the individual student, identifies behaviors that

are not consistent with the values of college communities, and describes the procedures that will be followed to adjudicate cases of alleged misconduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner, that is respectful of the rights of others, and that is compatible with the college's educational mission. Students are expected to comply with all of the college's duly established rules and regulations regarding student behavior while on campus; while participating in off-campus college sponsored activities; and while participating in off-campus clinical, field, internship, or in-service experiences. Students are expected to comply with all course requirements as specified by instructors in course syllabi and to meet the standards of acceptable classroom behavior set by instructors. For more information, login to your myHGTC account under "Student Rights and Responsibilities" card then select "Student Code of Conduct" or the "Student Catalog and Handbook."

## **Part II: Student Learning Outcomes**

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS\*:**

Dental hygienists must appreciate their role as health professionals at the local, state, and national levels. This role requires the graduate dental hygienist to assess, plan, and implement programs and activities to benefit the general population. In this role, the dental hygienist must be prepared to influence others to facilitate access to care and services. Therefore, at the completion of this course, the dental hygiene student will have received educational information to achieve the following basic competencies related to public health dentistry:

1. Describe the historical evolution of dental hygiene as a dental public health science.
2. Define the roles of the dental hygienist within a community setting.
3. Describe characteristics of the current oral health care delivery systems operating in the United States and international communities.
4. Discuss the social, political, psychological, cultural, and economic factors that affect utilization of the health care system, and trends that may influence the delivery system in the future.
5. Describe the major problems with the current mode of oral health care delivery.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in each of the following subject areas as they relate to community-based needs:
  - Oral epidemiology, statistics, and research methodologies
  - Oral health education and promotion
  - Government influence on the oral care delivery system
  - Prevention, control, and treatment of oral diseases

- Program planning and evaluation
- 7. Compare the effectiveness, efficiency, practicality, and economic feasibility of preventive measures when applied to community-based dental programs.
- 8. Identify the needs of a target population group by gathering and analyzing appropriate assessment data.
- 9. Assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate a community-based program.
- 10. Establish channels of communication to promote interdisciplinary community collaboration.
- 11. Describe and discuss oral health challenges presented in the supplemental reading of the book, *Teeth*.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS\*:**

### **Module 1**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 1, 2 & 11, supplemental content

**Assessments:** Class review activities, Test

#### **Objectives:**

1. Define public health
2. Describe the evolution of public health science and practice
3. Define dental public health
4. Define factors affecting dental public health
5. Describe the history of dental hygiene in relation to public dental health.
6. Define the historical development and mission of the ADHA.
7. List and describe current public health preventive modalities
8. Defend the need for preventive modalities in dental public health practice
9. Describe how cultural values regarding health care can affect oral health habits
10. Identify how culture influences people.
11. Define cultural diversity in the United States
12. Define cultural competency and its significance in treating a culturally diverse population

### **Module 2**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 3, 4 & 5, supplemental content

**Assessments:** Class review activities, Test

#### **Objectives:**

1. Describe the state of dental health in the United States
2. Identify the government agencies related to dental hygiene
3. Compare the functions of federal, states, and local government in dental care delivery

4. Describe dental workforce issues
5. Define need, supply, demand, and utilization as related to dental healthcare workforce
6. Describe the evolution of dental hygiene in countries other than the United States
7. Identify global oral health challenges and the positioning of dental hygiene care
8. Describe global workforce distribution and access to dental hygiene care
9. List and define international professional organizations involving dental hygiene
10. Describe current methods of payment for dental care
11. Define and apply terminology associated with financing dental care
12. Identify different insurance plans available for dental care
13. Describe the role of government in financing dental care

### **Module 3**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 12, 13, 18 & 19, supplemental content

**Assessments:** Class review activities, Test

#### **Objectives:**

1. Define the dental hygiene process of care planning paradigm
2. List various program planning paradigms
3. Describe various dental public health programs
4. Develop a dental public health program plan
5. Describe the mechanisms of program evaluation
6. Define and compare qualitative and quantitative evaluation
7. Identify various dental indexes and define their purposes
8. List the governmental evaluation resources for oral health
9. Define oral epidemiology and describe its uses
10. Relate epidemiology to evidence-based practice
11. Relate measurement to epidemiology
12. Define common epidemiologic terms
13. List and describe various publications that report oral epidemiology
14. Describe how surveillance data affects planning strategies to improve oral health
14. Identify ways to increase validity of epidemiologic research methods
15. Describe prevention by dental care utilization
16. List the current epidemiological issues of diseases and conditions
17. List the current risk factors of diseases
18. Describe prevention by dental care utilization

### **Module 4**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 6, 7, 14 & 15, supplemental

content

**Assessments:** Class review activities, Test

**Objectives:**

1. Explain the legislative process in the United States
2. Identify the major bodies of law in the United States
3. Describe the entity responsible for regulation of the dental hygienist
4. Detail the entity responsible for regulation of the dental hygienist
5. List the legislation initiatives affecting dental hygienists in the United States
6. List four roles for the dental hygienist to assume as a change agent and levels associated with each
7. Utilize tools and resource models to implement change
8. Identify the role of change agent in policy making
9. Promote partnership and coalition development
10. Describe inter- and intra-professional collaborations
11. Identify and list components of grant writing
12. Explain the purpose of dental hygiene research
13. Describe the role of research in dental hygiene
14. Explain the use of evidence-based practice in dental hygiene
15. Detail the connection between research and private practice
16. Describe the role of research in professional development
17. Explain the evolution of ethics in research
18. Define common ethical principal terminologies
19. Describe the role of ethics in research
20. Identify the role of government and private entities in research

**Module 5**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 16, 17, 20 & 21, supplemental content

**Assessments:** Class review activities, Test

**Objectives:**

1. Describe various research design approaches
2. List various research designs used in oral epidemiology
3. Describe methods used to conduct research studies
4. List the parts of a research design
5. Define data analysis and interpretation
6. Identify data by type and scale of measurement
7. Define descriptive, correlation, and inferential statistics

8. Identify a study's research (alternate) hypothesis, null hypothesis, and the process involved with making a statistical decision
9. Interpret research results
10. Describe how to evaluate dental care products
11. Defend the dental hygienists' value in advocating the use of effective dental care products and treatment modalities
12. Demonstrate educating the public about dental care products
13. Effectively critique dental research reported in dental and lay publications
14. List dental public health careers
15. Identify various government careers in dental public health
16. Define dental hygiene positions in a variety of settings

## **LAB LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

### **Module 1**

**Materials Covered:** *Dental Public Health & Research*, Ch. 8, 9 & 10

**Assessments:** Class activities, community health education project, outreach activities

### **Objectives:**

1. Define dental health education and promotion, and promotion principles
2. Describe the involvement of one's values in behavior
3. Outline and different learning and motivational theories
4. Explain the dental hygiene process of care
5. List the roles of a dental hygienist within a community setting
6. Define health education and motivational theories
7. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in each of the following subject areas as they relate to community-based needs:
  - a. Oral health education and promotion
  - b. Program planning and evaluation
8. Identify the needs of a target population group by gathering and analyzing appropriate assessment data; identify barriers to target populations
9. Assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate a community-based program
10. Describe the process of lesson plan development
11. Develop goals and objectives for a lesson plan; develop a lesson plan
12. Promote the values of the dental hygiene profession through service-based activities at a local elementary school and nursing home
13. Communicate effectively with diverse individuals and groups
10. Identify individual and population risk factors, and develop strategies that promote health-related quality of life
11. Identify barriers to dental hygiene care



12. Apply screening, referral, and educational services for underserved populations
13. Demonstrate proficiency at dental screenings and fluoride application on elementary school students and nursing home residents

***\*Students – please refer to the Instructor’s Course Information sheet for specific information on assessments and due dates.***

### **GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:**

This course fulfills the following General Education Outcomes through the (Community Dental Health Presentation project. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- ☒ Communication – Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and/or in written format.
- ☒ Critical thinking – Students will be able to demonstrate higher order of thinking when problem solving.
- ☒ Career Readiness/Lifelong Learning – Students will be able to effectively engage in the professional world or transition to higher level learning.

## **Part III: Grading and Assessment**

### **EVALUATION OF REQUIRED COURSE MEASURES/ARTIFACTS\*:**

Students’ performance will be assessed, and the weight associated with the various measures/artifacts are listed below.

#### **EVALUATION\***

##### **Evaluation (Lecture) 70%**

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Tests (3)         | 60%       |
| Final Exam        | 20%       |
| Homework/Articles | 18%       |
| Professionalism   | <u>2%</u> |
| Total             | 100%      |

##### **Evaluation (Lab) 30%**

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Community Dental Health Project | 80%        |
| Screenings/Off Site Activities  | <u>20%</u> |
| Total                           | 100%       |

***\*Students, for the specific number and type of evaluations, please refer to the Instructor's Course Information Sheet.***

#### **GRADING SYSTEM:**

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=77-79

D=70-76

F=69 or lower

**Students must earn a 77% or higher in lecture and lab to continue in the Dental Hygiene Program.**

Grades earned in courses impact academic progression and financial aid status. Before withdrawing from a course, be sure to talk with your instructor and financial aid counselor about the implications of that course of action. Ds, Fs, Ws, and Is also negatively impact academic progression and financial aid status.

## **Part IV: Attendance**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College maintains a general attendance policy requiring students to be present for a minimum of 80 percent (80%) of their classes to receive credit for any course. Due to the varied nature of courses taught at the college, some faculty may require up to 90 percent (90%) attendance. Pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 228.22 - Return to Title IV Funds, once a student has missed over 20% of the course or has missed two (2) consecutive weeks, the faculty is obligated to withdraw the student, and a student may not be permitted to reenroll. **Instructors define absentee limits for their class at the beginning of each term; please refer to the Instructor Course Information Sheet and HGTC Dental Sciences Program Manual for additional policies on attendance.**

## Part V: Student Resources

### THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER (SSTC):



The SSTC offers all students the following **free** resources:

1. Academic tutors for most subject areas, Writing Center support, and Academic Coaching for college success skills.
2. Online tutoring and academic support resources.
3. Professional and interpersonal communication coaching.

Visit the [Student Success & Tutoring Center](#) website for more information. To schedule tutoring or coaching, contact the SSTC at [sstc@hgtc.edu](mailto:sstc@hgtc.edu) or self-schedule in the Penji iOS/Android app or at [www.penjiapp.com](http://www.penjiapp.com). Email [sstc@hgtc.edu](mailto:sstc@hgtc.edu) or call SSTC Conway, 349-7872; SSTC Grand Strand, 477-2113; and SSTC Georgetown, 520-1455, or go to the SSTC [Online Resource Center](#) to access on-demand resources.

### STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER – TECH Central:



TECH Central offers all students the following **free** resources:

1. Getting around HGTC: General information and guidance for enrollment, financial aid, registration, and payment plan support!
2. In-person and remote assistance are available for Desire2Learn, Student Portal, Degree Works, and Office 365.
3. Chat with our staff on TECH Talk, our live chat service. TECH Talk can be accessed on the student portal and on TECH Central's website, or by texting questions to (843) 375-8552. Visit the [Tech Central website](#) for more information. Live Chat and Center locations are posted on the website. You may also call (843) 349-5199.

### HGTC LIBRARY:



Each campus location has a library where HGTC students, faculty, and staff may check out materials with their HGTC ID. All three HGTC campus libraries have librarians and staff who can aid with research, computers to support academic research and related school-work, and individual/group study rooms. Printing is available as well at each location. Visit the [Library](#) website for more information or

call (843) 349-5268.

### **STUDENT TESTING:**

Testing in HGTC courses may occur during regularly scheduled class time or online, with or without proctoring. Tests may be delivered in the following formats:

- Digitally through D2L
- In writing on paper
- Through a publisher platform (note: some publisher platforms carry an associated fee)

Tests may include time limits and may require proctoring depending on the course.

When proctoring is required and is not provided by the course instructor in the classroom, students may complete their test face-to-face at an [HGTC Testing Center](#) or another approved testing site, or online using HGTC's online proctoring provider. For more information about available proctoring options, visit the [Online Testing](#) section of the HGTC Testing Center webpage.

Students testing at an HGTC Testing Center should note the following:

- **Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.**
- **A physical, government-issued photo ID is required to test.**

The **Instructor Information Sheet** will have more details on test requirements for your course.

### **DISABILITY SERVICES:**

HGTC is committed to providing an accessible environment for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations are encouraged to visit HGTC's [Accessibility and Disability Service webpage](#) for detailed information.

It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as needing accommodations and to provide appropriate documentation. Once documentation is submitted, the student will participate in an interactive process with Accessibility and Disability Services staff to determine reasonable accommodations. Students may begin the

accommodations process at any time; however, accommodations are **not retroactive** and will only be applied from the point at which they are approved. Students must contact the office **each semester** to renew their accommodations.

For assistance, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Services team at [disabilityservices@hgtc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@hgtc.edu) or 843-796-8818 (call or text).

### **COUNSELING SERVICES:**

HGTC Counseling Services strives to optimize student success through managing personal and academic concerns that may interfere with achieving educational goals. Staff are available to every student for assistance and guidance on personal matters, academic concerns and other areas of concern. HGTC offers free in-person and telehealth counseling services to students. For more information about counseling services, please reach out to [counseling@hgtc.edu](mailto:counseling@hgtc.edu) or visit the website the [Counseling Services webpage](#).

### **STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:**

Our sincere commitment to both effective business management and equitable treatment of our employees requires that we present this Policy Statement as an embodiment of that commitment to the fullest.

Discrimination is conduct that includes unjust or prejudicial treatment based upon an individual's age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, and genetic information or any other protected classes deemed unlawful under State or Federal law that excludes an individual from participation in, denies the individual the benefits of, treats the individual differently, or otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of a person's working or learning environment. This includes failing to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities.

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination on the basis of sex may be directed to Jen Riddei, Title IX Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 2050 HWY 501 E, PO Box 261966, 843-349-5218, [Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu](mailto:Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu).

Student and prospective student inquiries concerning the federal laws and their

application to the College or any student decision may be directed to Dr. Melissa Batten, Vice President, Student Affairs, and Section 504 & Title II Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107A, 2050 HWY 501 E, PO Box 261966-6066, 843-349-5228, [Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu).

Employee and applicant inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College may be directed to Jacquelyne Synder, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Relations and the College's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 200C, Room 205B, 2050 HWY 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5212, [Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu](mailto:Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu).

### **TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS:**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement\*.

\*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination on the basis of sex may be directed to Jen Riddei, Title IX Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 2050 HWY 501 E, PO Box 261966, 843-349-5218, [Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu](mailto:Jenifer.Riddei@hgtc.edu).

**PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS**

Under Title IX, colleges must not exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to ensuring that pregnant students receive reasonable accommodations to ensure access to our educational programs.

Students should advise the Title IX Coordinator of a potential need for accommodations as soon as they know they are pregnant. It is extremely important that communication between student, instructors, and the Title IX Coordinator begin as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and will be addressed individually.

Title IX accommodations DO NOT apply to Financial Aid. Financial Aid regulations do not give the College any discretion in terms of Financial Aid eligibility.

Certain educational programs may have strict certification requirements or requirements mandated by outside regulatory agencies. Therefore, in some programs, the application of Title IX accommodations may be limited.

To request pregnancy accommodations, please complete the *Pregnancy Intake Form* that can be found [here](#).